

25 February 2022
(JD/GW)



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Dear Parent/Carer

I need to let you know about changes regarding face coverings in schools but thought I would also take this opportunity to update you on a few other matters too.

- **Change in Guidance on Face Coverings**

Firstly, I apologise for not getting something to you sooner on this but written guidance for schools only arrived yesterday. As you may already be aware, the Scottish Government has removed the requirement for pupils and staff in secondary schools to wear face coverings in classrooms from Monday 28 February.

The guidance goes on to state that any young person or staff member who wishes to wear a face covering in the classroom should be fully supported in doing so.

Face coverings should continue to be worn by secondary school pupils and all adults in indoor communal areas. This includes corridors, the dining centre (when not eating), the assembly hall and the library, unless exempt.

There may be pupils who are anxious about this change and we would ask that if this is the case, they speak to their guidance teacher. We also have a number of staff and pupils who are clinically vulnerable for a range of different reasons. We would therefore ask that you discuss this with your young person, requesting that they are mindful of this, and draw their attention to the Distance Aware Scheme, launched by the Scottish Government on 26 January. Full details can be found here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): distance aware scheme - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/topics/health/coronavirus/covid-19/distance-aware-scheme)

This is a significant change as face coverings have been required for secondary pupils since November 2020. I'm sure this will make a real difference to the classroom experience for staff and pupils alike.



- **Re-setting pupil expectations**

We have had a really positive response this week from young people in terms of the work we have been doing on expectations. Staff have reported general improvements in classroom attitude and we have significantly reduced the numbers of young people out of class or arriving late. We have also seen a very noticeable improvement in uniform. I know from speaking to several parents that this has been raised at home with young people and I would like to thank you for the impact that this has clearly had. There remains work to be done, of course, and we will be reinforcing expectations over the coming weeks. On this point, please note that we will be having further uniform spot checks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

We will also be streamlining our systems for communicating with parents in cases where young peoples' attitude or behaviour is falling below expectations. We have now refined our staged approach to behaviour management so as to ensure parents are informed at as early a stage as possible.

The following stages will now involve automatic contact with home:

Stage	Description	Contact with home
1	Second warning from class teacher	Groupcall message
2	Involvement of Department Head	Letter and call from Department Head
3	Involvement of Year Head	Letter and call from Year Head (meeting if required)
4	Involvement of Headteacher	HT Meeting with parents/carers

Whilst we would hope that the vast majority of young people will not be involved in any level of formal behaviour procedures, I still feel it is helpful to share with all parents the stages we have in place.

- **Expectations of behaviour between pupils**

We are also continuing to consider how to improve our young people's behaviour towards each other. It is critical our pupils learn how to develop and sustain positive relationships with each other and have the resilience to deal with the ups and downs that these will often entail. Young people can be very unkind to one another and coming to terms with this is a part of growing up. However, no young person should have to put up with bullying behaviour and we will continue to adopt a firm approach where such behaviour is brought to our attention. If you have concerns of this nature that you feel are not being addressed satisfactorily, I would urge you to contact me directly. I know some parents are reluctant to escalate matters to the headteacher, but you should feel confident that you can contact me for an informal discussion about anything, without need for this to be treated as a formal complaint if you do not wish.

- **Staffing Change**

I am sad to inform you that Mrs Caroline Stewart Principal Teacher of Home Economics will be leaving us on Monday 21st March to go to another post. Mrs Stewart has been a popular and very effective member of staff during her time here and will be a great loss to us. I am pleased though to announce that we have successfully appointed a new Principal Teacher of Home Economics, Ms Briony Campbell, who will join us shortly from Perth Grammar School. As Home Economics remains an area of national staff shortages, I am really delighted to have been able to appoint Mrs Campbell who I am confident will be an excellent addition to our staff team.

- **Additional Holiday**

Finally, I would like to advise that Perth & Kinross Council will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June 2022. The school will be closed to pupils and staff on both days. The Early May Bank holiday (Monday 2 May) has been moved to Thursday 2 June, with Friday 3 June being an additional day's holiday.

Full details of school terms and holiday dates can be found on the Council website - [School term and holiday dates - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

John Devine
Headteacher